

James Hanchett (Drug Chemist)

Qualifications

- Q. Please state your name for the record.
- Q. Who are you employed with?
Massachusetts Department of Public Health – Drug Lab in Amherst.
- Q. What do you do for Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health?
Chemist III
- Q. Do you work out of a laboratory?
- Q. Where is the laboratory located?
Amherst.
- Q. How long have you been a chemist with the Mass. Dept of Public Health?
Over 30 years.
- Q. What is the nature of your duties at the Mass. Dept. of Public Health?
Perform qualitative and quantitative analysis of drugs.
- Q. What is your educational background?
I have a BS degree from UMASS.
- Q. What did you receive a degree in?
Biology
- Q. As a Chemist with the Mass. Dept. of Public Health have you received any special training in the field of drug analysis and identification?
- Q. In your capacity as a Chemist with the Mass. Dept. of Public Health, how many times have you had the occasion to test for the presence of a controlled substance?
Over 70,000 drug analysis completed.
- Q. Have you testified in Court here in Massachusetts regarding the testing of controlled substances?

How the Lab Tests Drugs

- Q. After the police seize a substance, how do they have the substance tested?
- Q. After the Lab receives a substance from the police, what happens next?
The sample is given a number.

Q. Will that number stay with the substance through the very end until the time it leaves the lab?

Yes.

Q. What three tests does the lab performed to determine if items are controlled substances?

Ultraviolet Spectroscopy

Infrared Spectroscopy

Gas Chromatography, Mass Spectrometry (GCMS) (one technique)

Show the chemist the item tested

THE TEST OF THE MARIJUANA

Q. Mr. Hanchett showing you what has been marked for identification as Commonwealth's exhibit 1 do you recognize these items?

Yes.

Q. How do you recognize these items?

This is our laboratory case number [REDACTED] which was given to the substance when brought into the lab by Officer Soules on April 22, 2010 and also has my initials.

Q. Is this in substantially the same condition as when you received it?

Q. What changes are there?

Q. Other than that does the government's exhibit appear to be in the same condition?

Q. Did you perform a test on the two bags?

Q. When did you perform the test?

May 27, 2010.

Q. What test did you perform?

Q. Based on your training and experience and the analysis that you performed do you have an opinion as to what the substances were?

Marijuana.

Q. Under the General Laws of the Commonwealth what class does marijuana fall under?

Class D.

Q. You also weighed the two bags of marijuana?

Q. How was this done?

Q. What was the net weight of the two bags?
539.51.

Q. Did you memorialize your findings?

Q. Do you recognize this document?

Q. What is it?
Drug certificate (that corresponds to this piece of evidence – same drug lab number on the item as well as the certificate)

Q. Is this your signature at the bottom of the certificate?

Q. Is this the original certificate?
Yes.

Move certificate into evidence as Commonwealth's Exhibit _____.

Q. After the marijuana was tested what did you do with it?
It is stored at the lab until Officer Soules of PPD picks it up.

